

Amendment to HB 1689

1 Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

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3 AN ACT relative to the term of office for county officers in Belknap and Merrimack counties.

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5 Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

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7 1 Elections; State and County Officers to be Elected; Elected for 2-Year Term; Belknap and
8 Merrimack County Officer Terms Increased. Amend RSA 653:1, V to read as follows:

9 V. One sheriff, one county attorney, one county treasurer, one register of deeds, and one
10 register of probate by the voters in each county; provided that, at the 2022 state general election,
11 and at each subsequent state general election, any such officer in Rockingham county shall be
12 chosen in the county by the voters for a 4-year term; and, provided that, at the 2024 state general
13 election, and at each subsequent state general election, any such officer in Coos county shall be
14 chosen in the county by the voters for a 4-year term; **and, provided that, at the 2026 state
15 general election, and at each subsequent state general election, any such officer in Belknap
16 county shall be chosen in the county by the voters for a 4-year term; and, provided that, at
17 the 2028 state general election and at each subsequent state general election, any such
18 officer in Merrimack county shall be chosen in the county by the voters for a 4-year term;**

19 2 The State and Its Government; County Attorneys; Election; Temporary Vacancies. Amend
20 RSA 7:33 to read as follows:

21 7:33 Election; Temporary Vacancies. There shall be a county attorney for each county, who
22 shall be a member of the New Hampshire bar, elected biennially by the voters of the county;
23 provided that, at the 2022 state general election, and at each subsequent state general election, the
24 county attorney for Rockingham county shall be chosen in the county by the voters for a 4-year term;
25 and, provided that, at the 2024 state general election, and at each subsequent state general election,
26 the county attorney for Coos county shall be chosen in the county by the voters for a 4-year term;
27 **and, provided that, at the 2026 state general election, and at each subsequent state general
28 election, the county attorney for Belknap county shall be chosen in the county by the voters
29 for a 4-year term; and provided that, at the 2028 state general election, and at each
30 subsequent state general election, the county attorney for Merrimack county shall be
31 chosen in the county by the voters for a 4-year term.** If the county attorney is absent at any
32 term of court or unable to discharge the duties of the office, the superior court, acting as a body, shall

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- 1 appoint a county attorney, who shall be a member of the New Hampshire bar, for the time being and
- 2 allow said appointee such compensation for his or her services as set by the county delegation.
- 3 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill extends the term of office for certain elected county officers in Belknap and Merrimack counties to 4 years. The bill also requires that the elections for such Merrimack county officers coincide with the presidential election every 4 years.